

REMARKS

Pursuant to this Amendment, Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 6, and 27 to 29 have been amended.

By Office Action dated May 18, 2004, the Patent Office noted that Claims 30 and 31 were allowable, Claims 2, 7, 9, 10 and 13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 but was otherwise allowable. Claims 1, 3, 5, 11 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 2,085,728 to Clark ("*Clark*"). Claims 6 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of *Clark* and Official Notice.

In response, the features of objected to Claim 2 have been added to Claim 1. Claims 6, 27 and 28 specify a housing including a plurality of walls that define an opening and a lid releasably covering the opening. Applicants respectfully submit that *Clark* does not teach or suggest such a structure. Indeed, *Clark* discusses at the top of page 2 that "[t]he bowing of the base piece (3) is believed to be the simplest and least expensive possible method of elevating the transparent sheet (5) and maintaining the same in a taut position above the upper surface of the product." *Clark* does not teach a housing having a plurality of walls that define an opening and a lid releasably covering the opening, moreover, it appears from the quoted statement that *Clark* would not want to use such apparatus. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Claims 6, 27 and 28, and Claims 7, 9 to 11 and 13 depending from Claim 6 are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 29 has been amended to overcome the § 112 rejection and is further respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

An information disclosure statement along with the appropriate fee is submitted herewith. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any additional fees owed. It is believed that the art submitted in the information disclosure statement should be considered and entered into the Notice of References Cited in view of the withdrawal of the finality of the previous Office Action.

Applicant respectfully submits that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Robert M. Barrett

Reg. No. 30,142

P.O. Box 1135

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4204

Dated: August 18, 2004